

Minutes
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
IGCS Conference Room C
Indianapolis, IN
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Please note: All written reports were held until the end of the meeting and shared as time permitted. All submitted reports are attached to this month's SSCB meeting minutes.

SSCB Members in Attendance

Chairman Bob Eddleman
Warren Baird
Larry Clemens
Nola Gentry
Bill Mann

SSCB Members Absent

Jim Cherry

Audience in Attendance

Deb Fairhurst, ISDA
Gary Langell, DNR
Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD
DeeDee Sigler, IASWCD
Gene Weaver, IASWCD
Jane Hardisty, NRCS
Robert Woodling, Monroe SWCD
Ken Eck, ISDA
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone SWCD
Dan Dunten, ISDA
Chuck Westfall, ISDA
Chad Watts, TNC
Bob Burke, Tree Farm

Kenny Cain, Montgomery SWCD
Frank Hodges, ISDA
Rob Brown, ISDA
Julie Harrold, ISDA
Stacey McGinnis, Noble SWCD
Nathan Adams, ISDA
Wesley Slain, ISDA
George Reger, ISDA
David Lefforge, ISDA
Tara Henry, ISDA
Doug Hovermale, FSA
Steve Brown, FSA
Scott Trennepohl, ISDA

9:00 AM: Call to Order

Draft Minutes of September 2006

Nola Gentry moved to approve the September 06 minutes as presented. Warren Baird seconded and the motion carried.

Leadership Development:

Supervisor Resignations/Appointments-Waneta Lowe

Waneta Lowe presented the SSCB with the Supervisor resignations and appointments. June Dittmer of Ohio County recently resigned. Ohio County would like Wade Turner to replace her.

Gentry moved to approve the resignation and appointment. Larry Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

Lowe then presented the annual list (attached) of new appointments that was due November 1. Lowe stated she was awaiting Fayette and Blackford's information. She also noted that Delaware was in the process of getting signatures.

Baird moved to approve the appointments as presented. Gentry seconded and the motion carried.

District Requests-Bob Eddleman

Allen County

Allen County submitted a letter to Chairman Bob Eddleman requesting a waiver 10 acre requirement.

Gentry moved the SSCB accept Allen's request for one position for one term. Baird seconded and the motion carried.

Noble County

Stacey McGinnis Centralized Clearinghouse Coordinator for Noble County spoke to the SSCB about the need for more direction for Districts regarding Rule 5. McGinnis shared her concern that local SWCD Boards are in jeopardy for liability issues due to a lack of formal direction. McGinnis requested that the SSCB consider forming a committee with partnership representatives to bring all the necessary agencies together to clarify this issue. McGinnis suggested the committee consider changes in the law, MOUs from Districts and other solutions to resolve this issue. McGinnis also expressed her concerns regarding some MS4s listing Districts without requesting their consent or notifying them of their responsibilities.

The SSCB came to the consensus that Chairman Eddleman would work with conservation partners and agencies to form a committee to resolve this issue.

Leadership Development Workgroup Update

The Leadership Development Workgroup will meet on Dec 6th and give recommendations at December SSCB meeting.

District Support/Updates-Jerod Chew

Jerod Chew reported that his District Support Specialists (DSSs) will soon begin to work on individual support work plans for each of their Districts.

District Visits Program- Bob Eddleman

Eddleman reported that during the last CWI Grant Round IASWCD submitted a proposal for \$6500 to fund the District Visits Program. While the SSCB is very supportive of the District Visits Program, they tabled the proposal during the CWI grants process. Upon further inquiry, Eddleman found that the easiest way to fund this project would be for IASWCD to bill DSC for costs incurred after each visit.

Bill Mann moved that the SSCB approve up to make up to \$6500 available over the next year to cover the costs to District Staff and Supervisors while participating in the District Visits Program. Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

Technology:

Technology Workgroup Update- No Report

DSC Equipment Requests & Update-Jerod Chew

Chew reported that the equipment showcased during the summer at the SSCB SW meeting is still in the process with IDOA. We received two bids and have given comments to IDOA.

Delivery System:

Delivery System Workgroup Update-No Report

Funding:

Funding Workgroup Update- No Report

Clean Water Indiana Grants – Jerod Chew

Chew reported that the 2nd round of CWI grants is going smoothly and on target for initial payments in January. The DSC and SSCB plan to host a District Support Specialist Round Table prior to the next RFP to discuss changes to the CWI Grants program at the March or April meeting.

Brown County Letter- Jerod Chew

Chew presented a letter from Brown County requesting a change in language to their recently funded CWI proposal. Upon closer inspection, one of their project partners, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) requested that Brown County change the word "easements" to "reforestation agreements". The change would not affect the outcome or spirit of the project.

Baird moved to accept Brown County's request to change the word "easements" to "reforestation agreements" in their recently funded CWI proposal. Gentry seconded and the motion carried.

CREP Update- Written Report Attached

Outreach:*Outreach Workgroup Update-No Report*

Pathway to Water Quality (PWQ) Soil Adventure Mobile (SAM) Funding Issue-Warren Baird

Baird shared that the SSCB funds dedicated to were never transferred to the State Fair account. Upon inquiry, Baird found that billing was never received by ISDA and therefore they were unable to transfer the funds.

Baird moved to reimburse the PWQ for the \$1500 for last year and make another \$1500 available next year. Clemens seconded and the motion carried.

Accountability:*Accountability Workgroup Update-No Report***SSCB Chairman's Report- No Report****SSCB Discussions**

Attendance at conservation meetings, conferences, etc.

The SSCB attendance at the follow conservation activities was discussed: Annual Conference, NACD, Land Use Conference, SWCD Field Days, State Farm Bureau Convention, Indiana Conservation Alliance Day, Indiana Forest and Woodland Owners Conference and invitations for SSCB representation at meetings/events.

The consensus of the SSCB was that it was important for the SSCB to be visible to get more support for conservation efforts in the State. They also concluded it would be good for SSCB members to participate in partnership booths and displays at such events.

Ohio County

Lowie noted that Ohio County had submitted the SSCB requested at the last meeting. The submitted MOU met the \$10k match requirement, qualifying Ohio County for the full \$10k in matching funds.

ISDA Report- Written Report (attached)

DNR Report- No Report

IDEM Report- No Report

Purdue Report- No Report

IASWCD President's Report - Written Report (attached)

NRCS State Conservationist's Report- Written Report (attached)

Farm Services Agency Report- Written Report (attached)

Public Comment

The Rivers Institute will be hosting *Innovations in Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference* November 28-30.

Next Meeting

The next SSCB meeting will be held on December 12, 2006 in the North West at Purdue's John S. Wright Forestry Center (Martel)

The March SSCB meeting will be held in Wabash County to highlight their Cooperative Agreement.

Special Guest USDA Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner

Special Guest USDA Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner spoke to the SSCB and their guests regarding the upcoming Federal Farm Bill and conservation program expectations.

Secretary Conner explained that conservation programs will benefit from the recent increase in BioEnergy demands. The increase in demand has driven up commodity prices therefore reducing the need for Federal subsidies which previously made up a large portion of Farm Bill dollars. For the first time, federal decision-makers will be given the opportunity to

enhance conservation programs without having to take funds away from their commodity subsidy programs creating a “Win-Win” situation.

Secretary Conner envisions that Conservation will not only be a part of the new Farm Bill, but a driver of it. He stressed the importance of an increase in technical assistance to accompany the increase in financial assistance.

Adjourn

Minutes Prepared By: Cris Goode

Approved By:

www.iaswcd.org



**Indiana Association of
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil
and water resources for all Hoosiers

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To: State Soil Conservation Board

From: Gene Weaver, President, IASWCD

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Part-Time Communication Manager

- The IASWCD and NRCS have partnered for a part-time Communications Manager position and have hired DeeDee Sigler. This position will help to increase district capacity by providing important up to date communication and outreach to districts.

2007 Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Conference

- Conference is January 16-18, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel
- Senator Lugar has been invited to speak at the "Kickoff Luncheon" on January 16, 2007.
- Kevin Eikenberry will deliver a motivational presentation for the first general session on Tuesday, January 16.
- Register before January 9, 2007
- Hotel registration cut-off is December 15, 2006

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Leadership Training Conference

- November 29 & 30 in Nashville, TN
- Partnership will be represented by IASWCD (Gene Weaver, Jennifer Boyle, Jim Droege, and Ray Chattin), NRCS (Jane Hardisty), Bob Eddleman (SSCB), ISDA (?), and Paula Baldwin (League of RC&Ds)

Rivers and Lakes Work Group

- Revised after Senate Bill 94 passed last session. SWCDs have a representative on the committee.
- Mission is to provide substantive recommendations in dealing with lake and watershed issues.

Supervisor Leadership Institute

- Pilot program took place in the N-NE region on September 8 & 9. Very well attended by 9 of the 11 SWCDs in region.
- Additional trainings being planned for other regions in 2007.

IASWCD Updates

- IASWCD legislative committee still in discussion with Senator Kruse and others regarding a "State drink initiative". Legislation would be required. Funds would be directed into CWI.
- Watershed Information Specialist position filled.
- IASWCD Board of Directors Meeting set for December 7, 2006 (Farm Bureau Building) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE IASWCD MISSION *is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.*